

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 1139 – SB 1251

March 27, 2017

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Reduces from 12 to six months the time period, after a member's last official day as a member of the General Assembly, which the former member can request emails which have been sent to their legislative email address be forwarded to their private email address.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (006000): Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Requires legislative members whose principal residence is 50 miles or less from the State Capitol to be paid an expense allowance for lodging equal to the allowance granted federal employees for lodging expenses in the Nashville area, if the legislative member submits a request in writing to the Director of the Office of Legislative Administration (OLA) for the member's per diem reimbursement for lodging for a legislative day or any other day the member participates in any other meeting or endeavor as described in Tenn. Code Ann § 3-1-106(a).

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$225,400

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Currently, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 3-1-106(b)(3), a member whose principal residence is 50 miles or less from the State Capitol who requests expense reimbursement for overnight accommodations in Nashville has to have such expense approved by the respective speaker.
- According to the OLA, members whose principal residence is 50 miles or less from the State Capitol are allowed only the meals and incidentals expense reimbursement under current law. Therefore, it is assumed the speakers do not approve any lodging expense incurred in Nashville for members whose principal residence is 50 miles or less from the State Capitol under current law.

HB 1139 – SB 1251

- It is assumed that legislative members whose principal residence is within 50 miles of the State Capitol will submit a request in writing for reimbursement to the Director of the OLA for the applicable lodging expense.
- According to the OLA, there are 35 members currently residing 50 miles or less from the State Capitol. This number is assumed to remain constant into perpetuity.
- Each of the 35 members are assumed to claim the lodging expense on their per diem reimbursement form for an average of 40 days per year, which could include days the legislature is in session, as well as meetings held outside of any legislative session.
- The total number of days for which the lodging expense will be claimed is estimated to be 1,400 (35 members x 40 days claimed).
- According to the General Services Administration (GSA) website, the current reimbursable rate for lodging in Nashville is estimated to be \$161 per night. This amount is anticipated to increase over time.
- It is assumed an additional recurring appropriation will be required from the General Fund to travel budget of the Office of Legislative Administration to accommodate the provisions of this bill.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures from the General Fund is estimated to exceed \$225,400 (1,400 days claimed x \$161 minimum expense reimbursement).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/